PDS benefit for BPL people

5042. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the action proposed to ensure that people below poverty line actually get the benefit of PDS and not the middlemen/traders, who are the beneficiaries as ration items reach the market place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. A series of measures have been taken by Government of India to ensure that people living below poverty line actually get the benefit of PDS.

State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) and other levels to curb diversion and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementation of PDS. They have been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and bogus units in the ration cards. The State Governments have also been advised to initiate action against erring FPS owners under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A model Citizens' Charter for PDS has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption in order that there is transparency and accountability in the system so that PDS commodities reach the targeted beneficiaries efficiently. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS including complaints of diversion.

Transportation charges for sugar retailers of Punjab

5043. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case regarding fixation of transportation charges for

retailers of indigenous levy sugar in Punjab is lying pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the transportation charges suggested by Government of Punjab are not according to guidelines framed for the purpose, the Food Corporation of India and the State Government have been asked to furnish the required information. On receipt of the requisite information, the Government shall fix the transportation charges for retailers for the financial year 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Improving sugar industry

5044. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar industries in the country in the private, public and cooperative sectors, State-wise;

(b) the number of those which are sick or are showing signs of incipient sickness;

(c) whether any in-depth study has been conducted on growing sickness in the sugar sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of sugar industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A statement showing State-wise number of installed sugar mills in Public, Private and Cooperative Sectors is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) The sick sugar mills belonging to Private and Public Sectors are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA). According to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) established under the provision of this Act,